

## Macedon Ranges Residents' Association Rating System a Sham

Macedon Ranges Residents' Association rating system was admitted to be “a purely personal judgement with no scientific basis for calculating the rating” according to *Christine Pruneau* when asked by Russell Yardley if she would send a copy of his answers with his score to determine how the MRRA determined their rating of his candidacy.

“I participated in their candidates survey in good faith answering each question openly and with plenty of detail” said Russell Yardley a candidate for the West Ward. This is the first time I have stood for council and having spoken to all but one candidate to determine how I would set my preferences I found the views expressed to me by the various candidates completely at odds with the ratings given them by the MRRA and the issues and criteria on the MRRA website.

“There are very very few independent candidates in the election for Macedon Ranges West Ward. I am one of the truly independent candidates, I am not a member of any political party, my views and track record of 30 years of community service is on my website at [www.RussellYardley.com](http://www.RussellYardley.com) for all to see.” Said Russell

It is very disappointing that the MRRA statement on their website “The assessment process involved assigning points to candidates based upon their perceived strengths or weaknesses on different issues” has not been applied and I would call on the MRRA, if they are serious and wish to make an honest and positive contribution to political discussion then they should publish their questions and all the candidates responses so that the community can judge for themselves the validity and value of the ratings published by the MRRA.

The community needs to know that the statement on the MRRA website “final scores for each candidate in the assessment categories were an average of points awarded divided by the number of times a score was given” is a complete fabrication because according to Christine Pruneau the ratings are completely subjective and only represent their views of the candidates. I was told by Christine they did not score each question and so she could not provide me with any information other than the rating itself.

I do not support the extreme NO development under any circumstances being pushed by the MRRA but similarly I do not support the views of the very pro development policies of the Macedon Ranges Residents Secretariat either. I believe in sensible, careful planning decisions within well publicised general planning principles and strategies. I oppose ad hoc decisions based on specific planning proposals and personalities. We need to work hard to protect the special character of the Macedon Ranges and be very wary of extreme, secretive organisations trying to manipulate the political process. Said Russell

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